

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are all the claims currently pending.

By this Amendment, claim 1-12 have been amended and claims 13-14 have been newly added. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Response To Drawings

The Examiner states that Figures 4 and 5 should be designated by legend such as --Prior Art--. Applicants have amended Figs. 4 and 5, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Attached are Replacement Sheets of Figs. 4 and 5 in which Figs. 4 and 5 include the requested changes by the Examiner.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Park (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,271, hereafter "Park"). Additionally, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sekine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,561,498, hereafter "Sekine"). The Applicants traverse the above rejections for the following reasons.

As amended, claims 1, 5, 11 and 12 are directed to an image sensing apparatus that assigns weights to a predetermined frequency component of a video signal in order to drive a focusing mechanism. The weighting device changes a level of weighting in a second area which is outside of a first area placed substantially at the center of a focus detection area. The

weighting device can independently set a level of weighting in the horizontal and vertical directions. These feature of the present invention are not believed to be disclosed in Park or Sekine.

Park discloses a method which is characterized in that an integration is performed by using a weighting factor given to a sub-area that includes a pixel. However, Park does not disclose, teach or suggest that a level of weighting is changed in a second area which is outside of a first area which is placed substantially at a center of the focus detection area.

Further, Park discloses that weighting factors are assigned to every sampling area as described lines 64-67, column 5; lines 9-40, column 8; TABLE 1; and TABLE 2. However, Park does not disclose, teach or suggest that a level of weighting is independently set in horizontal and vertical directions of the frame.

Sekine discloses a method of reducing a vibration, and that an object to which weighting is applied is a motion vector. Further, in Sekine, weighting is mainly applied to outside of a focus detection area, which is hard to be influenced by the motion of an object and is mainly influenced by hand blurring. On the contrary, in the present invention, weighting is mainly applied to inside of a focus detection area, especially to a peripheral region of the focus detection area.

Therefore, Sekine, similarly, does not disclose, teach or suggest that a level of weighting is changed in a second area which is outside of a first area which is placed substantially at a center of the focus detection area.

Accordingly, the Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 5, 11 and 12 as well as their dependent claims are patentable over Park and Sekine. For the similar reasons, the Applicants believe that newly added claims 13 and 14 are patentable over Park and Sekine.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5228.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5228.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 02/18/05

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 4 and 5. These sheets, which include Figs. 4 and 5, replace the original sheets including Figs. 4 and 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets